REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9 and 10 have been canceled, without prejudice. New claim 11 has been added. The claims have been amended to recite elected subject matter, without prejudice.

The Section 112, first paragraph "enablement", rejection of claims 2, 4, 6, and 8 is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested in view of the following further comments.

The Examiner is understood to assert that the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for use of agents other than the agent recited in claim 6. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection insofar as the highly conserved porcine and canine forms of secretin (2 and 1 residues different from SEQ ID NO:10) disclosed as SEQ ID NO:11 and SEQ ID NO:12. The Examiner is urged to appreciate that, for example, bovine and porcine insulin have been widely used in the treatment of human diabetes even though the sequences are of a similar level of difference as secretin from their human counterpart. Moreover, the Examiner is urged to appreciate that Windstetter et al (Eur. J. Med. Res. 2(10):431-436, of record) uses porcine insulin to examine the renotropic effects of this hormone in human subjects. It is thus submitted that the pending claims are supported by an enabling disclosure.

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form in response to the Examiner's indication of material considered to meet the requirements of 35 USC Section 112, first paragraph.

The claims are submitted to be supported by an enabling disclosure and withdrawal of the Section 112, first paragraph, rejection is requested.

The Section 112, first paragraph "written description", rejection of claim 1 is moot in view of the above.

The Section 102 rejection of claims 2 and 4 over WO 98/02453 is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested in view of the following distinguishing comments.

WO98/02453 relates to peptidic ligands having a selective affinity for the VIP1 receptor. The pending claims are not directed to ligands having a selective affinity for the VIP1 receptor. Withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection is requested.

The Section 103 rejection of claims 2, 4 and 8 over WO98/02453 and Chein and Chang (1987) is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested in view of the following distinguishing comments.

. WO98/02453 teaches the use of ligands having a selective affinity for the VIP1 receptor. The present claims are directed to ligands which have native affinity for the secretin receptor and thus WO98/02453 teaches away from the pending claims. The secondary reference fails to cure this deficiency. The claims are submitted to be patentable over the combination of cited art. Withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection is requested.

The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned in the event anything further is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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